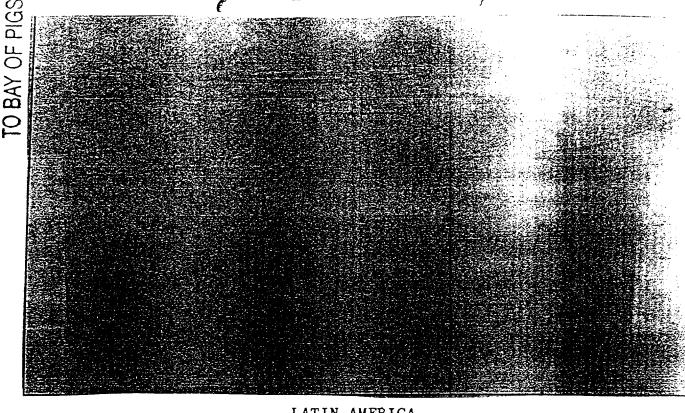
CIA HISIURIUAL REVIEW PROGRAM



LATIN AMERICA

17. Communist Tactics in the Cuban Labor Movement: nists are making a determined effort to take complete control of the Cuban Labor Confederation (CTC), where they already have substantial influence in the national directorate and in several constituent federations. Labor Minister Martinez Sanchez has cooperated with them and, when CTC President David Salvador complained of this, Martinez' action was endorsed by Fidel Castro, who said the labor problems could be "solved calmly" after May Day.

The Cuban Communist party (PSP) is reliably reported to be planning to discredit Salvador by criticizing his role in preparing for a mammoth May Day rally ordered by Castro. It claims he has hung back while PSP leaders are organizing "a million workers, civil militias, and the armed forces" to demonstrate support for the regime.

The CTC, well organized and totaling half a million members, was dominated by Communists with the consent of Batista when he was president in the early 1940s. Labor leaders who oppose them now include many leftists like Salvador, as well

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as Catholics, original members of Castro's 26th of July Movement, and others who are familiar with Communist tactics under the guise of "unity."

pSP leaders claim that Salvador and other non-Communist CTC national officials know they will soon be dislodged and that they hope to take asylum, claiming persecution by the Castro government and the Communist party. Although Salvador was Castro's choice to run the CTC as the labor arm of the regime, rumors that he will be replaced have arisen from his opposition to the purging of some 20 non-Communist CTC leaders by CTC organizational secretary Jesus Soto and others believed to be manipulated by Raul Castro.

